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# NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

Thursday, June 5, 2003

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## **DOYLE APPLAUDS PUBLIC SAFETY LAB, GATES KEYSTONE CLUB GIVES LAB AWARD**

Two suspects in separate violent crimes committed in the Town of Gates have seen their day in court and will now spend some time in jail and a large part of the credit has been directed to the Monroe County Public Safety Laboratory for its assistance and professional technical services. The Laboratory was recognized by Gates town policemen when the police club presented the 2002 Gates Keystone Club Appreciation Award during recent ceremonies at The Whittier Party House on Whittier Road in Gates.

“We are pleased that our services proved to be the crucial evidence needed to prosecute these two extremely violent crimes,” said County Executive Jack Doyle. “The Monroe County Public Safety Laboratory has once again proven itself as a great asset to the citizens of the Town of Gates as well as all of the Rochester community. The teamwork between the Gates police, the DA’s Office and our Laboratory was essential to this successful conclusion. We are proud of the professional role the lab plays in public safety and thank the Keystone Club for its recognition.”

On August 26, 2002 Scott Barker broke into a home in Gates, forcibly raped the female homeowner and stole items from her home as well as her vehicle. Barker did not know his victim, and he had been on parole for just seven days for a prior violent felony. Besides possessing the victim’s vehicle at the time of his capture, DNA evidence analyzed at the Monroe County Crime Lab directly linked Scott Barker to the heinous crime. On April 20, 2003 Barker pled guilty to the crime.

On November 27, 2002, Bryan R. Hawkins forcibly broke into a home in Gates and fought with the homeowner who lost his life that day while defending his home. DNA evidence collected at the scene and analyzed at the Monroe County Crime Laboratory matched Hawkins’ through a parolee DNA database. Hawkins was convicted of the crime June 2, 2003.

Both cases resulted in prison sentences.

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